

GENERAL LETTER FROM AMBLESIDE.

The year 1908 was brought to a close with the usual Supper and Dance given to the students. The evening was spent in a most enjoyable manner. Mdlle. Mottu and Miss Nevitt-Bennett gave us all great pleasure by appearing in Russian costume, shortly after the dancing had begun. The supper-room was prettily decorated with holly, mistle-toe, and fairy lights. After supper came the toasts to the separate members of the staff and to the old and new senior and junior monitresses. Dancing was then resumed. A most happy evening was brought to an end with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

The children's party took place the following day. After tea everyone assembled in the large class-room, where a pleasant surprise awaited us. The curtain going up, there was presented to our eyes a truly Indian scene; a princess seated on a kind of throne, her attendants standing on either side, and a servant salaaming in front. As the names were called each child went up in turn and bowed to the princess, thereupon receiving from the hands of the gracious lady a gift. The children entered heartily into the spirit of the game. Thanks were due to Miss Kitching for this novel idea, and to the students who so successfully carried it out.

The annual play at Grasmere occurred the day after our arrival at the beginning of this term. We enjoyed the play immensely, which, as usual, was in Westmorland dialect. The scenery, as we drove along, presented a very wintry aspect, and indeed a blizzard was blowing most of the afternoon. On January 20th a very interesting astronomy lecture, under the title of "The Splendour of the Heavens," was given at the Assembly Rooms, by Mr. Kerr. We are looking forward to another, entitled "Some Wild Animals I have known," to be given by Mr. Thompson Seton.

We have been fortunate in having three days of glorious skating. On Thursday last the ice on Rydal Water was

declared safe, and everyone enjoyed the sport to the full. On Saturday afternoon, the last day of the skating, the scene was strikingly picturesque, with the moving figures dotted black over the wide stretch of ice, and the sun setting in a golden pink light behind the surrounding hills.

C. C. S.

HOCKEY NOTES.

THIS year the hockey club is very promising. There are thirty members, from which two good elevens can be formed. Owing to the extremes of cold and wet, hockey has not had a fair chance this term, but next week we hope to have our first match, England v. Scotland and Ireland. The other matches on the fixture card are: Oxford v. Cambridge, and Seniors v. Juniors. This last is likely to be a hard tussle for the Seniors, as there are some very good players amongst the Juniors.

Scarves of the college colours have been introduced, and are a great feature on the field.

In result of Miss Monteath's inspiring coaching, the hockey practices, which take place twice a week, are attended with great keenness.

I. E. B.

POETRY CLUB.

THIS term we have decided to read the works of the poets connected with the Lake District.

Beginning with Wordsworth, on Saturday, January 23rd, we read extracts from "Through the Wordsworth Country," giving interesting biographical details connected with the neighbourhood of Ambleside; also parts of Wordsworth's poems which describe the local scenery.

On alternate Saturdays, we have arranged to have a symposium, at which papers and newspaper articles on subjects of general interest are read and discussed.

The first of these evenings was held on January 30th, when articles were read on "Unemployment," "Old Age Pensions," and "Christianity in Japan."

L. McD.

DRAWING-ROOM EVENINGS.

AMONG the drawing-room evenings at the close of the Christmas term there were some of extreme interest. Miss Winter gave us a delightful paper on Victor Hugo. The poet's life was well drawn, his childhood being especially well described. The evening was somewhat of a novelty, as the readings were in French. Miss Norris, in the dress of a French peasant, added the final touch by presenting Miss Winter with a laurel wreath.

Hans Andersen was the subject of the paper given by Miss Hart, and exceedingly interesting it proved. The writer's sad but eventful life was sympathetically dealt with. Some of the most charming of his fairy tales were read, the "Tinder Box" and the "Skirt Collar" being especially appreciated.

We all enjoyed immensely Miss Vine's evening on G. F. Watts. Appreciations and descriptions of many of his pictures were given, and prints of them were passed round. At the end a novel game was originated by Miss Henderson: each in turn described a favourite picture by the artist, the others naming it as soon as they recognised it.

The first Tuesday of this term the juniors entertained us, according to custom, with readings and music. The week Miss Aitken's able paper on Mendelssohn was the beginning of what we hope will be as profitable and pleasant a series of evenings as that which we have enjoyed during the past year.

J. V. G.

NOTES ON CRITICISM LESSONS.

I.—Subject: Literature. Class IV. Time, 40 minutes.

The lesson was on E. B. Browning. The sketch of her life was illustrated by her own poems; extracts from G. K. Chesterton's "Browning" were also read. A short synopsis of Aurora Leigh was given, and the main ideas embodied in the poem indicated. Extracts illustrating these ideas were read. The subject was pleasantly dealt with,

the sketch of Mrs. Browning's life being very sympathetically given.

II.—Subject: Scripture. Class IV. Time, 40 minutes.

The lesson was on the work and character of St. Paul. The subject was introduced by a short sketch of the condition of the civilised world at the time of the Messiah. An account of the apostle's conversion and a summary of his journeys were given.

The narration was good, but the lesson was too much of a lecture; the pupils did not take sufficient part in it.

III.—Subject: Physical Geography. Class III. Time, 30 minutes.

The lesson was about alluvial valleys and comprised the deposit and curves of rivers and the alteration of their courses. The lesson was well illustrated by diagrams and examples drawn from the local rivers. Some of the explanations, however, lacked clearness.

THE LIBRARY.

THERE have been several valuable additions to the library at "Scale How" lately, so that it has been found necessary to provide two more shelves for their accommodation. They are:—

"The Black Bishop" (Samuel Adjai Crowther), by Jesse Page.

"Heroes of Modern Crusades," by E. Gilliat.

"Heroines of Missionary Adventure," by Canon Dawson.

"The Revolt in Hindustan," by Sir Evelyn Wood.

"The Book of Crafts and Character," by Walter Raymond.

"Astronomy of To-day," by Cecil G. Dolmage.

"The Romance of Modern Geology," by Edwin S. Grew.

"The Romance of Bird Life," by John Iea.

"Wild Animals I have known," by Ernest Thompson Seton.

"Lives of the Hunted," by Ernest Thompson Seton.

A Dictionary of National Biography, edited by Sidney Lee.
 "The Historical Geography of the Holy Land," by George Adam Smith.

"The Romance of the Netherlands," by Mary Macgregor.

"New Zealand," by Reginald Horsley.

"English Children in the Olden Time," by Elizabeth Godfrey.

"The Prayer-Book and Lord's Prayer," by F. D. Maurice.

"Prophets and Kings," by F. D. Maurice.

"A Mother's Son," by E. and G. B. Fry.

"Six to Sixteen," by J. H. Ewing.

"The National Gallery," by Alice Corkran.

"The Wallace and Tate Galleries," by Estelle Ross.

"Bourriennes's" "Life of Napoleon." 1s. Hutchinson and Co., London. Library of Standard Biographies Series. Recommended in connection with history of Class III.

Pictures cut out from *Daily Graphic* and pinned on school-room walls; interested a child in *Ib*.

NOTES AND BOOKS SUGGESTED.

London School of Basket Work, 200, Regent Street, W., supplies cane at cheaper rates.

Miss Firth has the best selection of wooden boxes.

"Home Life in Germany," by Mrs. A. Sedgwick, recommended for dealing with that country.

"Bell's First Latin Course" is helpful in insuring accuracy as regards cases by giving exercises on one case only with profit.

BOOK LIST.

HISTORICAL.

1. *A Short History of the Social Life of England.* N. B. Syngé. Hodder and Stoughton. Purely social history; how people used to dress, what food they ate, etc. Not abstruse, but excellent for children about thirteen or fourteen.

2. *English History from Original Sources.* Edited by R. B. Morgan and E. J. Balley. Extracts from old chronicles (modern spelling), William of Malmesbury, old sagas and romances, etc. Good for anyone from Class II. upwards.

3. *Lives of the Queens of England.* Miss Strickland. An old book and not suitable to be put into the hands of children, but interesting—useful.

The Nineteenth Century: a History. Mackenzie. A standard book giving a splendid idea of England and its conditions, social and otherwise, in the nineteenth century. An invaluable book for students taking Class III. history.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Nature in New Zealand. James Drummond.

The World and its Peoples. Published by Nelson in 1s. 6d. parts.

NOVELS.

Our Little Brown Brother.

The Strayings of Sandy. Very amusing.

Wild Geese. Stanley Weyman. A study of Ireland in the reign of George II.

Ancestors and The Conqueror. Gertrude Atherton. Both dealing with American life and both interesting, thoughtful, clever novels.

The Autobiography and The Deliverance. Mark Rutherford. Both psychological and written in beautiful English. Very interesting.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Wind in the Willows and The Golden Age. Kenneth Grahame. Both charming books charmingly written; the first *for*, the second *about*, children.

Christmas Carols Old—New. Sir F. Stainer. Publisher, Novello.

Les Chansons de nos Grandmères. Alfred Godet-Hachette.

New Worlds for Old. H. G. Wells. A most excellent book setting forth sanely and clearly the principles of Socialism.

Heredity and Education. Guyau. A most interesting book.

QUOTATIONS.

"This is the true joy in life—the being used for a purpose recognised by yourself as a mighty one : the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap-heap : the being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailment and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy."—BERNARD SHAW.

"If all true thought traces God's thought, all religions must be His revelation so far as they are true. However elementary the truths may be, however great the errors men connect with it, truth is still Divine."—G. WATKIN.

"The tyranny of love even while it was but the love idea that shackled me so many years, narrowing my interests, warping my imagination, clouding the future, was dissipated at last. I had paid the tribute to my youth and sex. I felt really alive for the first time, existing in the actual not in the dream world. There are women and women : and quite enough of the fine old domestic order to keep the world going ; but there is a vast and increasing number that are never really alive and worth anything to themselves or life until they have worked through that necessary madness, buried it and settled down to those infinite interests upon which matrimony happy or otherwise bolts a thousand doors."—*Ancestors*, G. Atherton.

BRAN-TUB.

A new ink-stain remover. Quite marvellous. As good for removing spots from cloth, etc., as from paper ; the latter becomes quite hard and firm again, not rough and smudgy. It costs 6d., and is L. and C. Hardmuth's Ideal Ink Eradicator.